

WYCOMBE W. CRASH AT WALTHAMSTOW

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE Wanderers missed many chances in their Isthmian League match at Walthamstow against the Avenue this afternoon, and were defeated 4-0. Making his first team debut for Wycombe was 17-year-old wing-half Dave Thomas.

Walthamstow Avenue: McGuire; Edwards, Dudley; Andrews, Prince, Keenes; Groves, Minall, Abramson, Siggers, Harvey.

Wycombe Wanderers: Syrett; Beck, Moring; Thomas, Fisher, Truett; Worley, Fryer, James, Bates, Free.

Referee: Mr. W. H. Clapton.

An intelligent chip by newcomer Thomas sent Worley careering down the wing to force the first corner. Walthamstow were lucky to survive it, goalkeeper McGuire just tipping James's header over the bar.

Finding their touch quickly, Wanderers played some shrewd football with Fryer and Free using the ball beautifully in midfield movements.

Then came calamity. In their first serious raid Avenue scored. A long centre from Harvey found GROVES and his first-time shot hit a post, went under Syrett and spun into the net.

PLAY BETTER

Unruffled, Wycombe continued to play the better football and a determined Paul Bates sprinted through the home defence only to shoot at McGuire as he fell.

The Walthamstow defence was baffled by the speed of the Wycombe interpassing and McGuire had to make brilliant saves from a Fryer shot and a Free header to stop the seemingly inevitable equaliser.

JAMES WIDE

This was Avenue's lucky afternoon. The home team had an amazing let-off when James stabbed a Fryer cross just wide. Wycombe's attack, in which Fryer was outstanding, was badly missing its chances.

Half-time: Walthamstow 1, Wycombe 0.

A flashing dribble by BATES took him deep into Walthamstow territory but James shot wide.

It was even more astonishing when Walthamstow became two goals up. In one of their comparatively rare attacks, GROVES got in a low centre and ABRAMSON beat Syrett from close range. Full back Dudley had visions of a third goal with a fierce 40 yarder but Syrett nudged the ball over the bar magnificently.

Lack of finishing was letting Wanderers down very badly. Worley was switched to inside forward to try to find a remedy.

The confident Avenue side began to expose cracks in the Wycombe defence and two goals in a minute demoralised Wanderers. When Syrett failed to catch a centre from Groves, HARVEY chested in a third goal.

Then almost immediately SAGGERS brilliantly headed the fourth.

RESULT:

WALTHAMSTOW AVE .. 4
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0

SLACK WYCOMBE TAKE A HIDING

Walthamstow 4, Wycombe 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, the Isthmian League leaders, suffered a 4-0 trouncing from Walthamstow Avenue—and could blame their own bad finishing.

Walthamstow went ahead luckily in the eighth minute. Right-winger Groves shot, the ball hit the post and swerved past Syrett.

Walthamstow goalkeeper McGuire helped them to keep ahead in the first half with several good saves, notably two cat-like leaps to check shots by Free and Fryer. They escaped again when James put wide when well placed a few yards out after a neat square pass from Fry.

After 55 minutes Abramson, leading the Walthamstow attack in place of Jim Lewis, was on the spot to net from Minall's pass.

James could not elude Prince who was outstanding in Walthamstow's tight defence, and further goals for the home side came from Harvey and Siggers.